AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 6, line 15 with the following amended paragraph.

Generally, a flexible conduit 24 extends from the mechanism 10 on a downstream side 26 thereof such that the wire 18 will be advanced by the mechanism 10 through the conduit 24 to a welding gun 28 adjacent the workpiece 20. As the mechanism 10 axially advances the wire 18 along the pathway 12, the advancing wire is radially supported and guided by the flexible conduit 24 toward the workpiece 18 until the wire [[16]] 18 reaches the gun 28 and is consumed during the welding process. As is known, the conduit 24 can optionally carry shielding gas and electrical current to the welding gun 28. Alternatively, the flexible conduit 24 can be replaced with a rigid conduit terminating at a welding head. In any arrangement, it is to be appreciated that both conduit and welding guns are commonly known and therefore need not be described in further detail herein.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 7, line 29 with the following amended paragraph.

With additional reference to Figure 2, each of the drive rollers 36-42 (only drive rollers 36,38 shown in Figure 2) includes a hub 52 having an outer surface 54 extending circumferentially about the corresponding drive roller axis. To impart an advancing force or motion to the wire 18, opposing sets of the drive rollers 36,38 and 40,42 are positioned sufficiently close to one another so that the wire 18 extending along the pathway 12 is compressed between the rollers 36-42. The compressive force in combination with friction between the wire [[12]] 18 and the rollers 36-42 advances the continuous length of wire 18 along the wire path 12 in a generally smooth and continuous manner. Optionally, one or more of the drive rollers 36-42 can be urged toward or into the wire 18 to further impart an advancing force or motion to the wire 18 when the rollers 36-42 are rotating.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 9, line 1 with the following amended paragraph.

Preferably, the included angles of the grooves 58 are about thirty to sixty degrees (30°-60°) and, more preferably, about sixty degrees (60°). Because the grooves 58 are substantially similar on opposed rollers 36,38 and 40,42, a centerline of the wire 18 is between outer surfaces [[59]] 54 of the rollers and is above the outer surface 54 of any particular roller 36-42. By maintaining relatively tight tolerances in the grooves 58, the wire 18 is assured of contacting the sidewalls 60,62 while maintaining a gap between opposed rollers 36,38 and 40,42. Prior art roller arrangements, such as that shown in Figure 5, occasionally utilized a roller 122 with a sharp angled groove 120 but the opposing roller 124 was flat. This arrangement was used to ensure the sidewalls 126,128 appropriately contacted the wire 132 while maintaining a gap between the rollers 122,124. Two sharp angled, opposed grooves were not considered because, heretofore, tight tolerances of grooves 58 could not be ensured. However, modern machine has made it possible to ensure tight tolerances so that opposed grooves 58 are aligned and, when wire 18 is received therebetween, a gap is maintained between opposed drive rollers 36,38.